

ACTION  
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Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01  
ACTION HA-06

BUENOS 00052 052105Z

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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 H-01 ARA-16 NSAE-00  
SSO-00 L-03 INRE-00 /036 W

O 052045Z JAN 82  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2069  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN  
USCINCLANT NORVA

BUENOS AIRES 0052

EO 12065: GDS 1/6/88 (KEANE, J.F.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: ALLEGED DISAPPEARANCE

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED TO EXPECT THE BA PRESS TOMORROW, JAN. 6, TO CARRY REPORTS OF TWO NEW CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES, BOTH APPARENTLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE NOT COME TO LIGHT. EMILIO MIGNONE, WELL-KNOWN AND GENERALLY RELIABLE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, HAS INFORMED US THAT HIS CENTER FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES (CELS) HAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PRESS THIS AFTERNOON DOCUMENTED DETAILS OF THE TWO CASES, ONE OF WHICH HE SAYS HE DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS LAST MONTH WHILE HE WAS IN WASHINGTON, AND WHICH WE REPORTED IN BA 8800. IT INVOLVES GERARDO BRUGO, WHO ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED LAST MARCH. THE NEW CASE, INVOLVING A 21-YEAR OLD INDIVIDUAL NAMED DANIEL ALEJANDRO DI BERNARDO, OCCURRED ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER A MONTH AGO ON NOVEMBER 30.

3. MIGNONE VOLUNTEERED TO EMBOFFS THAT THE TIMING OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS PRESENCE HERE OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BAKER, WHO WITH SENATORS LAXALT AND HOLLINGS WILL BE IN ARGENTINA UNTIL JANUARY 8.

4. THERE IS NO NEW INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT WE ALREADY KNEW CONCERNING BRUGO IN MIGNONE'S PUBLIC STATEMENT. REGARDING THE DI BERNARDO CASE, HE DETAILS THE FOLLOWING: DI BERNARDO (AGE 21) WAS SEIZED ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 30, 1981 WHILE TALKING WITH TWO FRIENDS ON THE SIDEWALK NEAR HIS HOME IN THE CAPITAL CITY. HE WAS ALLEGEDLY FORCED INTO A PEUGEOT 404 AUTOMOBILE.

5. MIGNONE'S INFORMATION ON DI BERNARDO'S DISAPPEARANCE COMES FROM THE GRANDMOTHER WHO TOLD HIM THAT DI BERNARDO'S TWO COMPANIONS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED INCIDENT TO HER. THE GRANDMOTHER, ACCORDING TO MIGNONE, DID NOT REPORT THE YOUTH'S DISAPPEARANCE UNTIL LAST WEEK, HOPING THAT HE WOULD REAPPEAR AND OUT OF FEAR THAT PUBLICITY WOULD HARM HIS CHANCES OF RELEASE. FOR THE SAME REASON SHE HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO FILE A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE. THE GRANDMOTHER ALSO SAID THAT DI BERNARDO'S FATHER (HER SON) ALLEGEDLY DISAPPEARED IN 1976 AND HIS AUNT (HER DAUGHTER) AND THE AUNT'S HUSBAND WERE HELD FOR A DAY IN THAT YEAR BUT THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY (HUSBAND IS A SWEDISH NATIONAL) BOTH REAPPEARED AND WERE ALLOWED TO DEPART ARGENTINA.

HE LIVES ALONE WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER. THE GRANDMOTHER HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO IDENTIFY DI BERNARDO'S TWO COMPANIONS IN ORDER FOR MIGNONE TO CONFIRM THE STORY OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE, BUT MIGNONE SAYS HE IS CONVINCED OF ITS VERACITY. SCLAUDEMAN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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